

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Ley-Bruinsma, Kathleen <KLB@msblaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:57 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: No on H5232

Dear Clerk Terrie,

Please place this correspondence in the record for today's hearing on H5232 scheduled for noon.

I am requesting a No vote on H5232 by the Committee. This bill would usurp local control, destroy a statute that has worked well for 50 years, and discourage investment.

My husband, children and I live in an East Grand Rapids home built in 1927. East Grand Rapids illustrates that the historic district statute as it exists today works well. In 2014 when some East Grand Rapids residents asked the City to consider creating a historic district, the City Commission heard input from the entire community, and developers, and declined.

East Grand Rapids showed that under the law as it exists today, the local decision makers can properly and effectively hear from members of the community and stakeholders and decide to have a historic district – or not. House Bill H5232 is therefore looking for a problem that doesn't exist.

H5232 would also discourage investment in historic properties because it will effectively kill historic districts entirely. A number of developers have indicated that the lack of any historic districts will discourage investment in historic infrastructure. Without investment in any historic infrastructure, it will disappear entirely.

The current statute allows for balance between development and preservation. Please vote No on H5232 because it is not necessary.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Bruinsma
1748 Alexander SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616 308 5961